

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

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FOR VICE PRESIDENT'S PARTY, JOHANNESBURG FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XP, OVIP

SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL BRIEFING MATERIAL ON SOUTHERN AFRICA

YOUNG'S PARTY

REF: (A)BELGRADE 3269, (B) STATE 117985

1. WE HAVE PREPARED THE FOLLOWING SUMMARY AND TALKING POINTS FOR YOUR USE WITH THE BRITISH ON THE RESULTS OF THE MAPUTO CONFERENCE. AT THIS POINT, OUR INFORMATION REMAINS SOMEWHAT FRAGMENTARY, AS WE DO NOT AS YET HAVE THE FINAL CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS. WE ASSUME THEY WILL BE REPEATED TO THE VICE PRESIDENT'S PARTY BY EMBASSY MAPUTO.

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2. BACKGROUND. THE MAPUTO CONFERENCE IN SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLES OF ZIMBABWE AND NAMIBIA ENDED SUCCESSFULLY ON A NUMBER OF COUNTS. FIRST, THE CONFERENCE DECLARATION AND PROGRAM OF ACTION WERE MORE MODERATE THAN ANTICIPATED. THE CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS SEEM TO ACCEPT THE CONTINUING POSSIBILITY OF A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION FOR RHODESIA AND

NAMIBIA. CERTAINLY, THE DOCUMENTS PLACE NO BARRIERS IN THE PATH OF OUR INITIATIVES. SECOND, THE FIVE WESTERN MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL WERE ABLE THROUGHOUT TO MAINTAIN A COORDINATED POLICY. THE WESTERN PRESENCE

IN FACT ENCOURAGED MODERATION ON THE PART OF THE AFRICANS AND JUSTIFIED A US DECISION (MUCH AGAINST THE UK'S BETTER JUDGEMENT) TO GO TO THE CONFERENCE. WHILE THERE WAS SOME LAST MINUTE TENSION AMONG THE FIVE ON WHETHER TO DISASSOCIATE PARTIALLY OR FULLY FROM THE CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS--AND THE BRITISH WERE THE PRINCIPAL ADVOCATES OF COMPLETE DISASSOCIATION--THE WESTERN GROUP HELD TOGETHER AND AGREED ON A FORMULA FOR PARTIAL DISASSOCIATION(THE TEXT OF THE WESTERN STATEMENT IS CONTAINED IN MAPUTO 672, BEING REPEATED TO YOU). REASONS FOR OUR PARTIAL DISASSOCIATION INCLUDED CONFERENCE SUPPORT FOR (QUOTE) THE ARMED STRUGGLE (UNQUOTE) IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, THE CALL FOR MANDATORY ARMS SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA AND OTHER PROVISIONS WHICH WE AND OUR WESTERN COLLEAGUES FEARED WOULD PREJUDICE THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS BEGUN BY THE CONTACT GROUP.

3. TALKING POINTS.

-- OUR PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF THE MAPUTO CONFERENCE IS POSITIVE. THERE WERE NO BARRIERS PLACED IN THE PATH OF OUR INITIATIVES ON RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA.

-- WE THINK THIS JUSTIFIES THE ORIGINAL DECISION TO
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GO TO THE CONFERENCE, AND WE VERY MUCH APPRECIATE THE BRITISH WILLINGNESS TO JOIN US IN MAPUTO.

-- WE ARE ALSO PLEASED AT THE WAY IN WHICH THE FIVE WESTERN MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL WERE ABLE TO COORDINATE TACTICS AND POSITIONS AT MAPUTO. OUR PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT IS THAT THE AFRICANS UNDERSTOOD THE SPECIAL ROLE OF THE FIVE GOVERNMENTS AND WERE PREPARED TO ACCOMMODATE THAT ROLE.

-- ANY FURTHER CONCLUSIONS WILL HAVE TO AWAIT A CLOSER EXAMINATION OF THE CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS AND HOW THE AFRICANS AND LIBERATION MOVEMENTS INTEND TO USE THOSE DOCUMENTS (FOR EXAMPLE, HOW AND WHEN THEY WILL MOVE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON FURTHER RHODESIAN SANCTIONS).

-- WHAT IS THE BRITISH ASSESSMENT?

CHRISTOPHER

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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